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A
NARRATIVE

OF THE

Most CRUEL and BARBAROUS

TREATMENT

OF

Miss SARAH MOLLY,

Now in the Hospital of INCURABLES,
in the City of DUBLIN;

Who was kept confined and starved in a most shocking
Manner, from the Year 1747, to January, 1762;
when she was found by a Watchman, with her Arms
tied, at the Door of a House in *Rofs-lane*, about Twelve
o'Clock at Night.

With all the different Letters and Affidavits published on that
Occasion.

DUBLIN Printed:

LONDON re-printed, for J. WILLIAMS next the *Mitre*
Tavern, Fleet-Street.

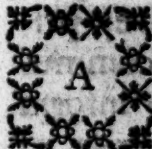
[Price FOUR-PENCE.]





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NARRATIVE, &c.

 S the public, no doubt, will be extremely curious to enquire into a matter that has taken up a great part of their attention, it will be necessary to inform them the reason why so much of this extraordinary affair has, as yet, been brought to light.

In October, 1752, a gentleman supped at the house of William Gregory, Esq; in Chancery-lane, and he was there informed, that Mr. Gregory's next door neighbour, Mr. Molloy, had almost starved his only daughter to death. The gentleman was much surprized that such a piece of cruelty should be practised on an innocent young creature, and that by her parents, without a proper enquiry being made into it; and told Mr. Gregory, who was a gentleman of the law, that it was shameful for him not to take notice of such an unheard of piece of cruelty: On which Mr. Gregory then promised he would make a proper enquiry into such barbarous proceedings. It then passed over for that time, and from thence to the month of December; when the said gentleman, being again informed by some people in the neighbourhood, that the child was still cruelly treated, caused, on the 22d of December, 1752, a letter to be published, in which the public will see that he was not prompted thereto by malice,

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but in hopes of rousing the young lady's father to a performance of that duty, incumbent on him as a parent and a christian: The letter is as follows :

AS there is no distress, however remote, which doth not deserve the immediate attention of the public; and as NEWS PAPERS are the proper channel, through which we may convey private distresses to the knowledge of the community: We therefore take this method to inform mankind, that there now resides in the parish of St. Bridget, near Bride-street, in this city, a gentleman who is possessed of a plentiful Fortune, and blessed with two children, a son and daughter; the daughter a most innocent creature, about the age of twelve, who is treated by him with the most unheard of barbarity; which as it surpasseth all cruelty, it is not in the power of language to describe her sufferings; let it suffice, therefore, to say, he has confined her to her chamber for upwards of these seven years, without ever assigning the least cause for such treatment; and even there, where it is impossible she can offend him, denies her the necessary supports of life, and has at length reduced her to that extremity of want, that she was, through raging hunger, compelled, a few days ago, to implore a servant in the neighbourhood to reach her a bit of bread, which she saw lying in the common sewer. Extreme poverty has so obliterated what she was, that there is now nought to be distinguished, save a few meagre features, and even those all overgrown with hair. What offence, in a child of such tender years, could deserve such treatment, cannot be imagined!

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Even the greatest criminals are allowed sustenance, But we shall enlarge no longer on so melancholy a subject. This advertisement is inserted merely to awaken the said gentleman to a true sense of his duty, and to assure him, that if it has not the desired effect, and speedily, not only the misery of the unfortunate young lady, but even the parents name shall be inserted, and proper application made to a higher power to redress this unheard of cruelty.

Dublin, Dec. 22, 1752,

Soon after said letter was published, the reverend doctor King, deceased, and some other Gentlemen, made an enquiry into the conduct of Neale Molloy, Esq; with regard to his daughter, he being the person pointed at in said letter; and found that the young lady had been treated in the manner mentioned in the above letter; and said doctor King, and other worthy gentlemen, took it upon themselves to have proper care taken of the child; and accordingly had her placed somewhere in Caple-street, and matters being thus settled, no farther enquiry was set on foot, nor did the public hear any more of it until the month of January, 1762, when a young lady, supposed to be the daughter of said Molloy, was found in the manner described in the following letter, and which letter was published with no other intention but in hopes the magistrates of this city would interest themselves in so unheard of piece of cruelty.

To the PRINTER.

S I R,

“ I am a stranger in this kingdom, and as such, was induced to visit the several public places and hospitals, most of which add great honour and lustre to this country, not only from the elegance of the buildings, but from the great endowments of the generous, charitable and humane. But how great was my surprize and indignation, when I went to the hospital of incurables, where I saw a beautiful young female, whom I shall describe with the strictest truth, and about whom I could not receive any satisfactory account. She is about the age of 18, of low stature, seems to be dumb, but hears well, has not the use of her limbs, and has the appearance, as if sprung from people of the better sort, with a pleasing, and (I think) a beautiful countenance. On enquiring who she was, was told, that she had been found, about six months ago, at a door in Ross lane, at an unseasonable hour of the night, and at a season of the year, when the inclemency of the weather must have perished her, had she lain there any time; and that she was from thence conveyed by the church-wardens to the care of a proper person, and was lately received in the hospital; that she has several marks about her, as if her legs and body were tied together with ropes, and has many other marks of cruelty, which had been practised on her; she has also a mark resembling that of a trout upon one of her thighs, but who she is, or how she was conveyed to the place where she was found, no one can tell.

How far it is incumbent on the magistrates of this city to inform themselves of the facts I have

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mentioned, and how far they can or ought to interpose, I must submit to their better judgment, being a stranger to the police of this kingdom, and only from the motives of humanity have been induced to give this narration to the public.

I am, Sir, your constant reader,

PHILO HUMANICUS."

The gentleman who had caused the said letter to be published, found to his great surprize that it had not the desired effect; and on the 17th of September, 1762, went to the hospital of incurables to ask there whether any humane person had made any particular enquiry about her, and was then informed that one Eleanor Campbell, who had nursed Mr. Molloy's daughter, had been there, and did positively say, that the young lady in the hospital was Sally Molloy, the daughter of Neale Molloy, Esq; and whom she had nursed several years ago. Her testimony is as follows:

ELINOR CAMPBELL's Affidavit.

County of the city of Dublin, to wit. **E**LINOR Campbell, of the city of Dublin, widow, came this day before me, and made oath, that in the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty six or thirty seven, this deponent was employed by Neale Molloy, of the city of Dublin, Esq; to nurse a female child for him; and sayeth, accordingly that this deponent did suckle and nurse such female child, who was called Sally, for the space of two years, and sayeth that the said child was taken from this deponent by the said Neale Molloy, or his wife Mrs. Molloy, and sent to Curduff, in the

the county of Dublin, to dry nurse, and during the time that said Sally Molloy was dry nursing, this deponent and her husband often went to see her at Curduff, aforesaid, and sayeth, that the said child was from thence carried home to the said Neale Molloy, at his house in Chancery-lane, in the city of Dublin; and this deponent often visited her there, and sayeth that during the time that this deponent so visited the said Sally Molloy, she observed she was treated by her mother, Mrs. Molloy, with great severity, and distance; and this deponent sayeth, that this said Sally Molloy was at the time this deponent last visited her at her father's, of the age of seven years; and sayeth that this deponent often went to said Molly's house in Chancery-lane, in order to see the said child, but was deny'd admittance; and this deponent sayeth, she heard and believes that the said Sally Molloy was treated by her parents with great cruelty, and ill nature, by not allowing her the common necessities of life, and verily believes that they would have continued such treatment to her, was it not for the interposition of some charitable persons that interfered in the said matter, some time in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty two, and sayeth that some short time ago this deponent heard that there was a female child or young woman left in Ross-lane, in the city of Dublin, sometime in the month of January last, and that she had been lately conveyed to the hospital of incurables; and this deponent hearing that said Neale Molloy and his wife had treated the said Sally Molloy with great cruelty, had secreted her from her friends and relations; this deponent went to the said hospital, and before she saw the said young woman, that was so received there, she described the features

tures of the said Sally Molloy to the housekeeper, and also told her that she the said Sally Molloy had a black spot on one of her thighs, and also had a mole under her left breast, and this deponent sayeth, that upon her giving such description, she was admitted into the ward where the said young woman was, and to this deponent's great surprize, found her to be the said Sally Molloy, the daughter of the said Neale Molloy, and is the person that she nursed for him as aforesaid; and has a mark resembling a trout on one of her thighs, and a mole under her left breast, and verily believes that great cruelty had been practised on her as she has marks of ropes about her body and is also deprived of her speech.

Sworn before me this 23d of Sept. 1762.

MICHAEL SWENEY.

her

ELINOR × CAMPBELL

Mark.

That the said gentleman who had interested himself so strongly in behalf of distressed innocence, caused the following letter in the news paper to be published.

To Mr. FAULKNER,

SIR,

On reading a letter to you, signed Philo Humanicus, I went to the hospital of incurables, and there saw the object mentioned in said letter, and who answers the description in every particular.

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On enquiring about her, was told that her nurse was to see her, the other day, and says, she is the legitimate daughter of a gentleman of fortune now living in this town, and which she is ready and willing to prove, when called upon; the nurse's name is Campbell, and lives in White-lyon-court in Strand-street. Sure, Sir, it would be well worthy of the humane and charitable, to enquire into this more than cruel act, as there seems to be something very mysterious in this affair, which we hope will soon be brought to light.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B.

And which two letters were answered, the 25th instant; in the following pompous manner.

To the PRINTER,

SIR,

I read two letters in your journal of last week, relative to a girl at an hospital; the 2d on Saturday last, the 18th of September, 1762, importing, that the poor object now in the hospital of incurables, is the legitimate daughter of a gentleman of fortune residing at this time in this town, and that one Campbell, who calls herself the nurse of that girl, is ready and willing to prove the same; now the gentleman, who, by most extraordinary contrivance, is pointed at by common fame, as father of that girl; and also, by said letter, signed A. B. thus publicly calls upon the said A. B. or upon any other of his
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accusers forthwith to produce their proofs, that the miserable object in said hospital is his daughter, that guilt may be punished, and villainy (wherever it be) may appear barefaced to the world. Let it be remembered we live under a British government, where every man ought to have as fair a trial for his reputation and character as for his life and fortune, and that calumny is a monster, that as often knocks at the door of the innocent, as of the guilty, wherefore let him not be condemned unheard, or by ambiguous charges, by proofs founded on inventive tales, by weak credulity, or by malignant whispers; but that Justice alone may condemn or acquit him. The Gentleman once more demands that his Accusers stand forth and shew themselves without Disguise. September 24, 1762.

In which the reader may see that the author of the two letters of the 7th and 18th was challenged to throw off his disguise and produce his Proofs.

Notwithstanding this severe threat and challenge to the authors of the said letters, the said author did, on the 25th of September, publickly avow the publishing the said letters, and caused, in his own justification, the following advertisement to be handed about the coffee-houses:

THE author of the letter to Mr. Faulkner, of the 18th instant, signed *A. B.* is called upon by a letter to said Faulkner, dated the 24th instant, that he, the said *A. B.* may produce his proofs relative to the girl in the hospital. The public is therefore desired to give themselves the trouble to go to Norris's coffee-house, and read a copy of an affidavit, the original of which is in the

hands of alderman Sweney, by which affidavit the gentleman who is the supposed father, and the public will see, that the said *A. B.* was not governed by proofs founded on inventive tales.

Sept. 25, 1762.

The publisher of said advertisement did as before appear without disguise, and took upon him the labouring oar of bringing so foul and so inhuman an act to public light,

The attention of the town being a good deal taken up on this extraordinary story, Mr. Molloy thought proper, on the Monday following, to publish the following advertisement.

By an advertisement handed about the coffee-houses on Saturday night last, the public are desired to read a copy of an affidavit in Norris's coffee-house, relative to the girl at the hospital, the original of which is (as alledged) in the hands of Alderman Sweney; in which advertisement it is boasted, that *A B* was not governed by proofs founded on inventive tales: *N O.* Now it is at last come to some issue, it is, what I doubt not but to prove it to be, a black and villainous conspiracy, notwithstanding any number of affidavits of such a wretch as Campbell will appear to be, and notwithstanding the audacious and unparalleled effrontery of her prompter. The single question turns upon this fact, Is the girl at the hospital of incurables my daughter, or is she not? My daughter she cannot be, as she is, and has been for several Years past, at a boarding-school in England; and happy for me (upon this occasion) that it is so: A little Time shall clear up the whole Affair; in the mean while I request the public will suspend their judgment. Sept. 27th 1762.

NEALE MOLLOY.
By

By which the public will see, that he says his daughter is at a boarding-school in England, and sure Mr. Molloy, instead of running into invectives, and making Use of severe Epithets against the Author of the two first letters, might have said in what boarding school his daughter was, in what town or County in England, or under whose care or inspection she was placed. But in these matters he is pleased to be silent, and therefore gives the public an opportunity of judging in this as well as his former conduct.

Mr. Thomas Smith, who is universally known, in the city of Dublin, to be a gentleman of the strictest Honour, appears to be the champion for innocence in distress; and, with the Assistance of a worthy and vigilant Magistrate, doubts not to ring this horrid and mysterious affair before the public, in its proper colours: The said Mr. Smith was under the disagreeable necessity of publishing his Reasons to the public; the purport of which is as follows;

HAVING heard that there was an object found at a door in Ross-lane, some time in January last, and that she was conveyed to the hospital for incurables, I was induced thro' curiosity, to go to the hospital in order to see her, and having heard the story of the manner in which she was found; and of the great cruelty that had been practised on her, I thought it incumbent, not only on myself, but on every other charitable and humane person, to lay this affair before the public, and, if possible find out the author or authors of so foul and dark an act; for which purpose I published a Letter in Mr. Faulkner's paper of the 7th instant, signed PHILO HUMANICUS, describing the

the said object, and calling upon the public to enquire how, and in what Manner she was conveyed to the place she was found, and " knowing " the Magistrates of this city were ever vigilant " and active in doing their duty," addressed the said letter in some measure to them. What could induce me to embark in so troublesome, and in such an extraordinary affair, but by being moved thereto by compassion and humanity for an unfortunate wretch, that has been worse treated than those that undergo the punishments of the inquisition? Mr. Molloy well knows, that in December, 1752, an enquiry was made into his conduct with regard to his daughter; that he was at that time accused for locking her up and starving her; that on the enquiry of the Rev. Doctor King, deceased, the Rev. Robert King his son, and Mr. Sergeant Malone, deceased, they found that she was most barbarously treated, and had been starved; and Mr. Molloy also must remember, that Mr. Sergeant Malone did pawn his word of honour with me, that the child should be taken care of, and put out of the power of her cruel mother: These were his words; and at the same time shed tears. Every one that had the pleasure, and indeed the happiness of Mr. Malone's Acquaintance, must well remember, that he was a man of the highest Benevolence and charity, yet, such was his opinion of Mr. Molloy; he at the same time requested that I would discontinue the letter which was then in the public papers. Mr. Mallone's request I complied with, and never thought that I should hear more of it; but find it has once more fallen into my lot to be a busy medler in an affair, which, in fact, is more the business of the gentlemen placed at the head of the city.

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Thus far I have laid this matter before the public, and submit to them, whether any thing I have done through this whole affair, that has made so much noise, looks like malice, though Mr. Molloy makes use of epithets I in no sort deserve; but, indeed, I have great charity for that gentleman, and as I am persuaded he was hurried into it by passion. Before I conclude this, I must inform the public, that I don't know Mr. Molloy, or any of his family, nor had I directly or indirectly, any dealings or intercourse with him; and also, that there is a Gentleman of known worth and probity now at my elbow, that in the years 1751 and 1752, often fed Sally Molloy, daughter of Mr. Molloy, of Chancery-lane, by often sending bread and meat, to be left in the necessary-houte for her, to which place only she had access at times, she being locked up by her keepers or parents in a two-pair of stairs closet, from the window of which her complaints were heard; and he is now ready and willing to swear, that the said Sally Molloy, that he so fed in Chancery-lane, is the same person now in the hospital. To the just Tribunal of the public I appeal, and to their impartial Judgment submit my conduct, and fear not, when this affair shall be considered by them, that I shall meet with their approbation, rather than be censured for calumny.

And am,

Their most Obedient Servant,

William-Street.

Sept. 27, 1762.

THO. SMYTH.

Since

Since the above vindication was published, Mary Nary, a woman of exceeding good character, made affidavit, as follows:

MARY NARY's Affidavit:

County of the City of } *MARY NARY, of the*
 Dublin, to wit. } *City of Dublin, Wife of*
Patrick Nary, Glover, came this day before me, and made
Oath, that in the Years 1751, and 1752 this De-
ponent was employed in the Summer Season of the said
years, to take care of the House of William Gregory,
Esq; in Chancery-lane, in said city, which was the
next door to the house of Neale Molloy, Esq; and sayeth,
sometime in the summer in the year 1751, or 1752,
this deponent was alarmed by the cries of a child in
the closet of the house of said Molloy, which closet
window looked into the yard of counsellor Gregory's
house, and being so alarmed at such cries, went to look
for the person that had so cried, and to her great sur-
prise saw a young female child standing at the closet
window, which appeared to this deponent to be almost
starved to death; and upon deponent's asking her who
she was, she told this deponent, that she was the daugh-
ter of counsellor Molloy, and that she was famishing
and starving, and begged, for God's sake, that said
deponent, should give her something to eat; and
sayeth, that this deponent, accordingly, gave the said
Molloy's daughter meat and bread; and which was
conveyed to her by this deponent's son who is since
dead, and who conveyed it to her into the said closet
window, by throwing it up by a Sling, made of
packthread; and sayeth, that several Times in the
said Years, this deponent sent the said Sally Molloy
viſuals, and often conversed with her; and, par-
ticularly, asked her, if she could say her pray-
ers, or the Lord's Prayer, and she told this depo-
nent that she could not, and asked deponent what it
was.

was. Sayeth, that during the Times that deponent had so conversed with her, she always told deponent that she was starved; and that she had a cruel Mamma: and deponent sayeth, she observed her feeble in one of her hands, and asked what was the matter with it, and she answered that her Mamma had hurt it, and that she had little or no use of it, sayeth that some time ago this deponent went to the hospital for incurables, and there saw the said Sally Molloy, the Daughter of the said counsellor Molloy, and the person that she had so often fed in Chancery-lane as aforesaid; and sayeth that she still has the hurt on one of her hands, and has little or no use of it. Sworn before me the 29th of September, 1762.

MARY NARY.

MICH. SWENEY.

As also did Mr. James Gardiner, a gentleman of known probity and character, to the effect following;

That he had often fed Sally Molloy, in the year 1751 and 1752; at a time that she was almost starved to death by the cruelty of her father and mother, and often conversed with her from the closet-window wherein she was kept; and that she always complained, as well as the low dejected state she was in could admit her, that her mother had starved her, and which he from many circumstances, believes to be true.

That he lately went to the hospital, and believes the object he there saw to be the said Sally Molloy, the daughter of the said Counsellor Molloy, and is the person that he had so fed and conversed with in said Molloy's house in Chancery Lane, aforesaid.

The public will be pleased to observe, that there

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are several other affidavits of persons of credit and character to the purpose of the former Affidavits, in the hands of a magistrate.

Two **QUERIES** for Mr. Molloy to answer.

1st, If Mr. Molloy should bring over his daughter, must he not be under the necessity of proving her such by affidavits of persons of unexceptionable character; and must he not also give a satisfactory account to the public how she has for these many years past been disposed of?

2dly, Would the same persons affidavits be sufficient to disprove the girl in the hospital being his daughter?

The following Advertisement appeared in the Dublin Journal:

27th of September, 1762.

WHEREAS some time in the month of January a young woman was found at the door of a house in Ross-lane, about the hour of twelve o'clock at night, tied with cords, and otherwise having been most inhumanly treated; having, besides many marks of violence, the Appearance of having been starved almost to death: which young woman is now in the hospital for incurables. And whereas, from many circumstances appearing, it is apprehended that she is the daughter of a person of fortune, and that her parents were perpetrators of the cruel treatment: this is to advertise, that if the person who carried and left the said woman at said door, will discover the person or persons who delivered said young woman to him or them, and for what purpose she was delivered, the person so discovering shall receive twenty guineas reward, to be paid by Alderman Michael Sweeney, and application shall be made to the Government for further Reward, and a free pardon for the discoverer.

F I N I S.

